

that, stop criticizing Hollywood and clean up our own house first.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in the House Committee on International Relations a very important debate will take place. The members of that committee will determine if this House of Representatives is able to vote on a resolution that would finally pay tribute to the victims of one of history's worst crimes against humanity, the Armenian Genocide of 1915 through 1923.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the United States still does not officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Bowing to strong pressure from Turkey, the U.S. State Department has for more than 15 years shied away from referring to the tragic events of 1915 to 1923 by using the word "genocide." President Clinton and his recent predecessors have annually issued proclamations on the anniversary of the Genocide, expressing sorrow for the massacres and solidarity with the victims and survivors, but always stopping short of using the word "genocide," thus minimizing and not accurately conveying what really happened beginning 83 years ago.

In an effort to address this shameful lapse in our own Nation's record as a champion of human rights, a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress has been working to enact legislation affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. I want to applaud the work of the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our Democratic whip, for their strong leadership in creating this legislation.

Many countries, as well as States and provinces and local governments, have adopted resolutions or taken other steps to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. From Europe to Australia, to many States in the United States, elected governments are going on record on the side of the truth. Regrettably, the Republic of Turkey and their various agents of influence in this country and in other countries have fought tooth and nail to block these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of a crime against memory and human decency that the Republic of Turkey denies that the genocide ever took place and has even mounted an aggressive ef-

fort to try and present an alternative and false version of history, using its extensive financial and lobbying resources in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of sympathy and moral support for Armenia in the Congress, in this administration, among State legislators around the country, and among the American people in general. But we should not kid ourselves. We are up against very strong forces, in the State Department and the Pentagon, those who believe we must continue to appease Turkey, and among U.S. and international business interests whose concerns with exploiting the oil resources off Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea far outweigh their concerns for the people of Armenia.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on International Relations tomorrow will quickly approve this resolution and finally bring it to the floor in this House in the coming weeks so that we can finally recognize this horrible crime.

GUAM'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express some concerns about environmental conditions on Guam as a result of problems with PCBs and as a result of some recently discovered mustard gas vials left over from the military. I am very concerned about the safety of my constituents in light of these recent discoveries of chemical weapons testing kits containing measurable amounts of mustard gas and other toxic chemicals on Guam. Given the public health dangers associated with exposure to these substances, I have requested the Department of Defense to perform a historical record survey to determine the final disposition of chemical weaponry that was brought to Guam. This survey should be comprehensive and include identifying former military dump sites as well as other potential disposal sites used by the military.

Guam has been a significant area for U.S. military activity for more than 50 years. First used as a major staging area during World War II, the military presence in Guam increased correspondingly with the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

□ 1945

Its full value as an area to forward deploy American military forces continues to be strong, even in today's post-Cold War era. At the time, Guam was home to a fully operational Naval Base, Naval Air Station, Naval Communications, Submarine Base, Air Force Strategic Air Command and

Naval Weapons Depot, and today still has the largest weapons storage area in the entire Pacific.

But over these many years it has become clear that it was military activities during World War II that posed the greatest threat to the people of Guam. During World War II, Guam was used as a staging area for the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and eventually, as contemplated, the invasion of the Japanese homeland.

Over time, several instances of mustard gas have been discovered; and a few months ago, officials from the University of Guam presented documents to military officials that a huge shipment of mustard gas was brought to Guam in 1945. But there has been no documentation of these weapons leaving the island.

In a September 5, 2000, Pacific Daily News article, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers surmised that the shipment had been likely dumped at sea. It is illogical, because the shipment was brought to Guam. How could it be taken off and dumped at sea? He went on to say that lacking evidence of a definitive area that should be searched, the Army Corps could not conduct a comprehensive search. "Otherwise, it is almost like a needle in a haystack."

However, just last week, additional chemical weapon cannisters were found with a pile of unexploded ordnance at Anderson Air Force Base, and these cannisters resemble the testing kits that had been earlier found in the central part of Guam, in Mongmong, an area that used to be a military base. With these two discoveries of toxic chemicals in less than 2 years, I believe that we have in fact found just the beginning of countless needles in the haystack.

I would have hoped that the first discovery of mustard gas would have spurred the Department of Defense to engage in this exhaustive survey, historical survey, of what chemical weapons and what general ordnance was stored on Guam left over from World War II.

In addition, this is combined with another issue concerning the environmental condition of Guam, and that is the inability to take PCBs out of Guam. Guam and other territories are outside the customs zone, and as laws regarding the disposal of PCBs, PCBs can be brought to Guam from the U.S. mainland, but they cannot be brought back into the U.S. mainland for proper disposal. I remain in strong conversation with EPA officials and have received a strong commitment to resolve this problem administratively in the upcoming months.

However, in a neighboring island to the north, Saipan, there were recently discovered PCB materials, but the EPA has already issued an administrative order releasing those PCB items to be